Posting of Armed Police in Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary

5441. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2 Platoons of the Orissa State Armed Police have been placed inside the Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary in Orissa during the year 2001;

(b) if so, whether such a deployment proved beneficial for forest protection; and

(c) whether the State Government intend to continue with the exercise in future?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As informed by the State Government, one platoon of Orissa State Armed Police Force was deployed in Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary from 28.10.2000 to 19.6.2001 for the protection of the Sanctuary. The deployment of the force helped in controlling illicit felling inside the sanctuary effectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Meetings of Wildlife Board

5442. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Indian Board for Wildlife was constituted; and

(b) the number of meetings held since its constitution; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL) was constituted in the year 1952. Twenty-one meetings of IBWL have been convened so far. Year-wise details are as given below:

Sl. No.	Year of meeting of IBWL
1.	1952
2.	1955
3.	1958
4.	1961